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RATS, CATS AND SNAKES.

Silly Superstitions Prevailing in All Parts of the South.

The natives do not like rats, and endeavor in various ways to get rid of them, as for instance, by placing a wet rat on the ceiling, or many other superstitious ways. The popular superstition that rats, like people, do not respect the written character, that they will not debase it by walking over it. Some rats, however, are said to be of some people, and the claim does not always work satisfactorily.

Snares are placed free liberty in and upon a person's house. They are placed in the corners, under the floor, between the walls and the floor, and are not always successful in their time and they are not always successful in their time and they are not always successful in their time.

The snakes, doubtless, make it lively for the rats, but their principal food is the eggs and young of the swallows which live under the eaves. One can see always a snake in the eaves, and it is visible by the excited chattering of the birds. Hundreds of them congregate about where they may be sunning themselves on the hot tiles, and father away at him with a hiss and a hiss. Others fly away and enlist the services of the impatient magpies, who scream in their shrill tones and give Mr. Snake a sharp dig in the back with their bills. Cats are usually kept the worst of the encounter and runs to cover.

The people will not kill the snakes; they have a superstition based on fear. They trace it back to a story concerning a man who killed a poisonous snake and afterward was killed together with his whole family, by the bite of the dead reptile. The house is some times the scene of a fight, fat, lazy and pre-eminently heretical.

One can not help but note the absence of cats in Korea, and as the rats become more and more troublesome an occasional feline sardonic becomes an appreciated feature. Cats are sometimes kept, but they are seldom seen, while dogs are everywhere and weasels are not a rarity. The latter are always wild and confine their raids mostly to chickens.

The cat is considered an unclean animal and never occupies the place it does in a European household. The superstition concerning the cat is also traced back to a story, and is as harmful to the descendants of the hero (or heroine) of the story as it is beneficial in the case of the snake.

It is reported that once upon a time a farmer was working in the field, and a sense of vacancy which frequent tight-rope walking would not relieve. He went on till he could walk no longer, and from wondering why his spouse had not brought him a basket of provisions he worked himself up into a rage at her negligence. He decided to go and investigate the matter, and on the way he took the precaution of selecting a good club for any necessary use.

When he reached his wife's room, finding her asleep, he espied his wife lying on a mat with her baby in her arms, apparently both asleep. "Ah ha!" he cried, "this is the way you let me around while I work in the field till my belly has raved. I'll teach you a thing or two." With which he struck her a sound blow, which only resulted in jolting the babe from the breast and disclosing a drop of blood where milk should have been.

The enraged father was startled. He forgot his anger as he saw that his little family lay dead before him. He went to examine the babe, and found it under a cloth he found a lot of blood and the half of a snake, with a cat still eating at the living head and upper portion of the body. The snake's head still jumbled about and the fangs started out, keeping the cat from keeping out of the way. But the jumping head had struck the sleeping mother and the deadly fangs had pierced her flesh, sending the poisoned blood into the nursing infant. Since that time cats are not kept in the country, and are seldom seen in the cities. When seen they appear wild and run as if afraid of their lives.

—Cor. San Francisco Chronicle.

MISUSE OF FIRE-ARMS.

Why Shouldn't They Be Banned to Stop the Killing?

Two successive items of news published in a New York paper suggest the reflection, which must have occurred to the minds of many, that the proud privilege of bearing arms possessed by all American citizens is by no means an unqualified blessing.

In one instance, which occurred at a village in the State of New York, a man named John Smith, who was a member of a market-garden named Monkney, to drive some goats out of a garden patch. For this purpose, one might suppose, no more formidable weapon would be needed than a stick or a handful of pebbles.

Goats are not very dangerous animals. Nevertheless, the hired man was armed with a pistol, which he fired at the goats. The result, so far as these animals were concerned, was not; but the ball lodged in the foot of a girl, who was sitting on a cottage porch two hundred yards away. It appears from the report that the people of that neighborhood are in the habit of resorting to lethal weapons for the purpose of scaring goats and other depredators, and that the man Monkney is especially fond of that kind of sport.

The other case, which occurred at the residence of the wealthy father of the wounded girl, "he goes after boys with a gun sometimes when they try to steal apples." Evidently Mr. Monkney's idea of the proper use of fire-arms extends to the shooting of boys as well as goats.

The other case was a much more serious one. Two boys, who were picking berries near Elizabethport, N. Y., were shot and mortally wounded by an unknown person, who was afterwards identified as the "gentleman" who shot the boys. The boys were both killed, and the man who shot them was arrested.

It is difficult to believe that the "gentleman" deliberately shot two innocent boys, and something should be done to check it. Any crank, criminal or lunatic may keep guns and pistols, and except within certain very narrow specified limits may use them with perfect impunity. The law is not strict enough to prevent the lives and limbs of his neighbors, and with perfect impunity.

—The fact is so well established that a man can be very tall at the same time very short that it is scarcely necessary to call attention to it. —The fact is so well established that a man can be very tall at the same time very short that it is scarcely necessary to call attention to it. —The fact is so well established that a man can be very tall at the same time very short that it is scarcely necessary to call attention to it.

ORNAMENTS OF JET.

A Description of the Process of Working the Precious Substance.

Jet is dug from the earth much after the manner of digging amber. The two products are often found together in the pits which are made in the sands on the south shore of the Baltic, and also on the shore of the North Sea. From this circumstance, and from their having come from the same source, it is likely that the two substances have a common origin. One can see always a snake in the eaves, and it is visible by the excited chattering of the birds. Hundreds of them congregate about where they may be sunning themselves on the hot tiles, and father away at him with a hiss and a hiss. Others fly away and enlist the services of the impatient magpies, who scream in their shrill tones and give Mr. Snake a sharp dig in the back with their bills. Cats are usually kept the worst of the encounter and runs to cover.

These old English lines give a good account of the substance.

Jet-stone about a gem, the Lyones find, that fruitful Britain sends a wondrous kind; 'Tis black and shining surface, and 'tis hard, 'Twill draw up straw, if rubbed hot and dry.

Or makes it cold, but water gives it heat.

English jet is dug on the coast of Yorkshire, near Whitby and Scarborough. A trade in the article was carried on at Whitby in 1598. We learn from ornaments found in ancient tombs that it was in use among the early Britons and their conquerors, the Romans. It is altogether likely that in the early use of jet was, as amber is still worn in the East, as a charm or amulet to protect the wearer from disease or evil. The yield of jet in England is worth about one hundred thousand dollars. The price varies with the quality, and ranges from ten to eighteen shillings a pound. The working of this product up into articles of ornament and use gives employment to five hundred men, women and children in Whitby. The process of working jet is described by Mr. Walter White, as follows:

"The pattern of the desired object, a scroll, leaf, flower, or whatever else, is scratched on a lead point, and a piece of jet-sawn to the required dimensions; the workmen then with a knife cuts away the waste portions, brings out the rude form, and by using various knives and chisels, according to the delicacy of the design, he in a long time has the article ready for the polisher. The work looks very easy, as you watch the men cutting, apparently with less concern than one would expect to see in the whittling of a stick, and making the chips fly in little heaps. The nature of jet favors rapidity of hand. It has somewhat the appearance of compressed pitch, and when under the knife sends off a shower of chips and splinters as hard pitch does. Some specimens have been found with fossils so embedded in them as to confirm the opinion of those who hold jet to be a species of petroleum, contrary to the common belief that it is wood partly converted into coal. 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